

*John and Ann Ewbank Family.* Compiled and arranged by Richard L. Ewbank, Louis B. Ewbank, and Mrs. Ama Lana Nowlin Baker, Secretary. (n.p., [1947], pp. 104. Illustrations.)

Our ancestors often began housekeeping with a family Bible as their most cherished wedding present. Into it they recorded all the family history. What a wealth of genealogical data some of these old books contain! Genealogy is not ancestor worship, it is history. Carlyle said, "History is the essence of many biographies." It is very encouraging to find some member interested enough in the history of his own family to collect and record dates and places of birth, marriage, and death.

*John and Ann Ewbank Family*, is such a collection. It is a neat little volume of 104 pages, clearly printed on good paper with nice wide margins and the photographic illustrations add to its attractiveness. A great deal of painstaking care has gone into the compilation of this book.

The authors have a clever way of arranging the family tree. The children of the emigrant are referred to as "Tribes." The descendants of each tribe are kept separate. Thus in the Tribe of Thomas, his children, grandchildren, and four generations of great grandchildren, follow the names of their parents in logical order. This arrangement must give a great amount of satisfaction to each family. To the outsider, the genealogist, however, this plan is very confusing. It means leafing the book through page by page and scanning each page carefully when searching for a name and not knowing definitely under which tribe to look. An index would have increased the working value of this book ninety per cent. A few notes showing who has the family Bible records and where important data was obtained, would also have added to its value. Source material references are absolutely essential in genealogical research.

The John and Ann Ewbank family is a good example of the sturdy stock from which we Americans sprang. The life of John, the emigrant, should serve as an inspiration. Born in England in 1752, he found himself penniless in 1805, due to the treachery of a friend. He resolved to try and retrieve his fortune in America. Bidding goodbye to his nine children (the oldest of whom was fourteen) and to his wife (who was expecting her tenth child), he set sail for the new world.

After two years of hard work, he had saved enough money to send for his family. After four more years of work, John felt that he had saved enough money to finance the family venture to the Old Northwest Territory. At the age of fifty-nine, we find John Ewbank located near Tanners Creek in the present state of Indiana ready to carve a home out of a vast wilderness. Was he successful? Read the short sketch of the family, look at the pictures of the home John built, and judge for yourself whether a man can make a success of life after he has reached the age of sixty.

*D.A.R. Library*

Grace Osterhus

*Fabulous Hoosier, A Story of American Achievement.* By Jane Fisher. (New York, Robert M. McBride & Company, 1947, pp. vii, 263. Illustrations. \$3.00.)

The career of Carl Fisher, the Fabulous Hoosier, is a story of the automobile age. He began his business life repairing bicycles and patching tires, but soon became a racer and a dealer. From these activities he passed to racing and selling automobiles. Prest-O-Lite, which he did not invent, made him a millionaire. He was a leader in the development of the Indianapolis Speedway, the Lincoln Highway, and the Dixie Highway. With the Prest-O-Lite millions, he built the great resort city of Miami Beach, literally making the land upon which it was constructed. From this he turned to Montauk Point on the tip of Long Island. "Fisher luck" deserted him, this project was not completed, and Carl died a poor man. He made millions and carried great projects through to completion, but he did not learn how to live. He enslaved himself and forgot how to relax. His story is unique in its details, but it is similar to several other stories of men who rose from poverty to power and riches without understanding how to use their newly acquired wealth and influence.

The work is essentially the memoirs of his wife, who was closely associated with him until near the end of his life. Although the facts are related frankly, the work is uncritical and savors of hero worship. It is, however, a fascinating story, a story that began in Indiana.